

# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

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# Iowa Department of Education Releases Condition of Education Report

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – The Iowa Department of Education released *The Annual Condition of Education Report* for 2008 today. The report shows an increase in many areas of student achievement and a decade of declining enrollment, with an increase projected.

lowa continues its long-term trend of improved student achievement on the lowa Tests of Basic Skills and the lowa Tests of Educational Development, the required tests for students in the state. For example, in the reporting years of 2001-2003, 75 percent of lowa's fourth graders were proficient in math. For 2006-2008, 80.5 percent of students were proficient. This is a positive impact of nearly 2,000 fourth graders statewide.

"As many lowans' know, we have a history of strong student achievement in lowa, but there is still much to do to ensure all our students succeed," lowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey said. "To help continue our upward trajectory, we must focus on students who may need additional support as we assist all students in making gains."

The demographics of many lowa school districts are changing. For example, there are more students learning the English language. In 2007-2008, there were nearly 20,000 English language learners, which is more than double the number reported 10 years earlier. Three of every four English language learners identified their primary language as Spanish.

In addition, the percent of lowa's low-income students has increased from 26.7 percent in 2001 to 33.4 in 2008. Though declining, special education students make up 12.9 percent of lowa's total student enrollment.

Additional highlights of the 2008 *Condition of Education* report, which provides the most recent state education information up to the 2007-2008 school year, include:

## **Our Schools**

- 514,747: The number of students statewide in 2007-2008 being served in lowa's public and nonpublic schools. Enrollment has dropped 6 percent in 10 years. Projections show a possible increase with kindergarten students outnumbering seniors in public schools by more than 3,500 in the 2012-2013 school year.
- **364**: The number of districts statewide in 2007-2008; there were 365 in 2006-2007 and 377 in 1998.
- **14.4%**: The percent of minority enrollment across the state; it was 13.6 percent in 2006-2007 and 7.7 percent in 1998.

#### **Our Teachers**

- **34,823**: The number of full-time public school teachers in the state in 2007-2008, this is up from 34,444 in 2006-2007.
- 7.8%: The number of teachers eligible to retire in 2007-2008, this is an increase from 5.6 percent in 1997-98.
- \$46,626: The total average salary of lowa's teachers in 2007-2008. Last year, the average salary was \$44,062.

### **Student Learning Opportunities**

- 76.6%: The percent of lowa districts of-fering preschool in 2007-2008.
- **37.1**%: The percent of students enrolled in higher level math (pre-calculus, calculus, trigonometry, statistics, and Advanced Placement mathematics) in 2007-2008.
- 59.4%: The percent of students enrolled in chemistry.
- 24.8%: The percent of students enrolled in physics.
- 80.5%: The percent of students enrolled in foreign language courses (Spanish most popular).

#### **Student Progress**

- 22.4: Iowa's average ACT composite score in 2008, which is higher than the national average composite score of 21.1. Iowa has the second highest average composite score among states that had more than 50 percent of seniors take the ACT.
- 90.5%: The lowa public school graduation rate for 2007, which is a slight decrease from 90.8 percent in 2006.
- **3.1**: The average Advanced Placement exam score in Iowa. The average national score was 2.85 out of a possible 5.

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## **Finance**

- 41<sup>st</sup>: lowa's national ranking among all states for the average total amount it spends to educate each student. lowa spends \$8,141 per pupil.
- **54.8%:** The average percent of a school district's budget that comes from the state funding.
- **69.1%**: The percent of total general fund expenditures in lowa public school dedicated to student learning in the classroom in 2006-2007.

The *Annual Condition of Education Report* for 2008 provides Iowa's citizens a tool for reviewing prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education in Iowa. It will be available on the Iowa Department of Education (DE) website at

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/component/option.com\_docman/task,cat\_view/gid,646/Itemid,774/

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.